

The Scranton Tribune

PUBLISHED DAILY IN SCRANTON, PA., BY THE
TRIBUNE PUBLISHING COMPANY.
E. P. KINGSBURY,
GENERAL MANAGER.
NEW YORK OFFICE: TRIBUNE BUILDING, FRANK &
GRAY, MANAGERS.

ENTERED AT THE POSTOFFICE AT SCRANTON, PA., AS
SECOND-CLASS MAIL MATTER.

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SCRANTON, AUGUST 17, 1894.

REPUBLICAN STATE TICKET.

For Governor: DANIEL H. HASTINGS,
OF CENTRAL.
For Lieutenant Governor: WALTER LYON,
OF ALLEGHENY.
For Auditor General: AMOS H. MYLIN,
OF LANCASTER.
For Secretary of Internal Affairs: JAMES W. LATTA,
OF PHILADELPHIA.
For Congressmen-at-Large: GALUSHA A. GROW,
OF SCRANTON; GEORGE F. HUFF,
OF WESTMORELAND.
Election Time, Nov. 6.

If SCRANTON had the kind of a public hospital that the third city in the state deserves to have, there would be no such thing as this now frequent spectacle of sick and injured persons begging in vain for a place to lay their heads.

The Business Outlook.

The country owes no thanks to the Democratic party for the fact, already happily visible, of returning business prosperity almost immediately following the settlement of the tariff wrangle. All that sectional prejudice, deluded ignorance and venal malignancy could do under cover of Democratic misrepresentation to thwart and baffle the lawful industrial activities of our people was done. To the natural and inherited vagaries of the old-line Democracy were eagerly yoked the socialistic fantasies of the north and west, the mobocracy of the urban slums and the purchasable elements that monopolists supplied the money to bribe and buy. Thus reinforced, this Democratic administration managed for upward of a twelve-month to hold a club over the heads of American business men whilst the tariff reform. It succeeded to this extent, that American labor and American capital have in that year divided between them a money loss of \$4,000,000,000, exceeding even the colossal cost of the slave holders' rebellion. But at the end it failed, as all such vicious schemes must fail, through the sheer force of its intrinsic depravity. The wiser councils of the senate prevailed; and though the tariff bill that resulted was a distorted child of struggle and compromise, it was a compromise fraught with relief to acute business suspense and one which can be accepted, in lieu of a better, without the necessity either of shutting up shop or of greatly curtailing new enterprises.

We look at this subject in a twofold light. While on the one hand we are more than ever convinced, as we think are all unprejudiced citizens, of the utter unworthiness of the Democratic party as an instrument of genuine reform, and strengthened in our belief that it has idly squandered the one political opportunity it will have during this generation; on the other hand, we are disposed to accept the senate bill as embodying upon the whole better and more lenient treatment than American business men had had reason to expect. A new tariff bill was at no time a real necessity. The gratuitous formulation of one, at a time when trade conditions were settling down to prosperity under the McKinley bill, and involving, as it did, new and needless confusion, suspense and loss, was a gross blunder, if not a deliberate crime. But when the deed was committed, and there was left no alternative to its final ratification save the senate bill, in which, with all its suggestion of barter and sale, and its bedraggled into the mire of the socialistic income tax, there were yet clear traces of intended and systematic protection, it obviously became and remains the policy of wisdom to accept the best terms offered, and "let it go at that."

For eighteen months the production of many of the staples of commerce has been greatly curtailed or else suspended utterly. During this time surplus stocks have been wiped out and false credits cancelled. The panic has been a physis that has weakened and gripped the patient sometimes with seemingly intolerable severity. But with the enactment of a definite law, the purging will cease, and we shall from this time onward pass into comfortable—and, by contrast, pleasurable—convalescence. The tariff physis has ceased to operate. The dose will not be renewed. What ever that quack doctor, Democracy, might like to do in this emergency, the fact remains that its hands are now manacled, and with the coming into power at the first general election of a competent and confidence-inspiring Republican congress, we shall doubtless see such a strengthening of the patient as will justify its discharge with a clean bill of health.

"FIVE years of dire and distressful domestic conflict, followed by thirty years of ruthless and reckless taxation and expenditure, have failed to stunt the growth or stifle the spirit of the nation," asserts William M. Singler,

as if he had uttered something new. But he forgot to mention how effectually only one year of Democratic mismanagement accomplished the job.

He who gets licked and runs away will live to get licked another day; and Mr. Cleveland knows it.

"THE COAL and iron bill will be talked to death and kept dead by talking until the American people can elect a congress capable of dignified and useful statesmanship," says the Democratic Washington Post; and the Republican party acknowledges the graceful compliment with its very best bow.

WHEN A GOOD thing has to be done there is no time like the present to begin to do it. The West Side will have a hospital some day. Why not now?

Probing the Brooks Law.

The announcement that in a few days Senator Grady, of Philadelphia, will call together his committee to investigate the moral effects of the Brooks high license law suggests a variety of thoughts. On this committee were appointed during the closing hours of the last session of the legislature such men as Senators Walter Lyon, Grant Herring, C. Wesley Thomas and Benjamin B. Mitchell; and they were clothed with uncommon powers. They can call not only for any official documents which they think may have a bearing upon the increase or decrease of pauperism, crime and insanity arising in this commonwealth from the sale of liquor under the Brooks law; but they are also empowered to summon the superintendents of almshouses, the keepers of jails, the district attorneys of various counties and even the judges of license courts.

It is possible, and probable, that this committee will not perform its functions as it should. Investigations by committees rarely investigate. And in this direction of all others it is idle to expect practical politicians, whatever their partisan affiliations, to proceed further than a certain point, which may be denominated the point of safety. If all district attorneys and all judges were put through a rigid cross-examination under oath as to their activity and sincerity in enforcing the Brooks law, the result would not doubt show conclusively, independent of any differences of opinion as to the principles of that law, that much of the objection to it arises rather from slack enforcement than from structural weaknesses in the statute itself. We have even heard it intimated that there have been officials not many miles distant who would have much to explain were this inquiry relentlessly and searchingly forced upon them.

But they rest easy under the circumstances, for they doubtless know that this announced inquiry will never lift any scalp. The spectacle of "speak easy" places in successful operation beside places that pay over the full license fee exacted by law will not be likely to encounter serious disturbance by reason of any disclosures before the Grady probing committee. It is humiliating to have to make this prophecy; but it is the cold truth, and few persons are in ignorance of it. The Brooks law, enforced, would be quite a different thing from the hap hazard, row-you-see-it-and-now-you-don't-see-it monstrosity which in sections of our glorious commonwealth passes itself off as the Brooks law, so-called.

MR. CLEVELAND after great difficulty has bolted his Hawaiian dish of crow and has signalized the completed deglutition of that unsavory morsel by writing a personal letter of congratulation and greeting to President Dole. Mr. Cleveland was driven to this finality after a great show of foolish stubbornness and asinine pride. His surrender is a new tribute to the strength of an enlightened public opinion.

BICYCLE RIDERS at Indianapolis have gone on a strike. On account of a change in the rules the other day a number of them refused to ride in a race. These railroad strikes are bad enough, but when base ball players and bicycle riders begin the boycott things are indeed getting serious. Apprehension is felt that the strike mania will reach tennis courts.

IN THE opinion of the Washington Post, the tariff reformers should be satisfied with what they have achieved, and the Democratic party may be thankful that the situation is no worse. What do they want? Haven't they saved everything except their honor?

WE ARE indebted to the Philadelphia Times for the information that "the Wilson bill is a beneficent boon to both capital and labor and they should speedily profit by it." What a pity, then, that the house killed it.

THE ADMISSION of that imperial blowhard, Michael J. Kelly, into the same organization materially lessens Scranton's pleasure in being a member of the Eastern League. Will Diddlebock come in, also?

IF IT BE TRUE, as persistently asserted, that Cleveland is really maneuvering for a third term, some friend ought in all kindness to tell him exactly what kind of a deluded individual he is.

IT MAY interest our readers to know that we have finally located a number of persons who are honestly pleased with the new tariff bill. They reside, for the most part, in Europe.

FIFTY CENTS' license tax per annum for each electrical pole in Scranton is cheap enough. The electrical corporations have no just reason to complain of such a bargain.

IT WILL BE in order for the deadly parallel makers to keep Mr. Cleveland's recent remarks about "party perfidy" and "party dishonor" within easy reach.

TOM REED is indebted to the Democratic house for his only experience

with a set of men who were "so anxious to eat crow that they actually stole the crow." But, then, when did Democracy not live on stolen Republican ideas and its own stultification since the Republican party was organized?

UPON THE principle that any settlement of the tariff is better than indefinite suspense, the long held-up business interests of the country are unquestionably experiencing real relief. And it is emphasized every time the business men reflect that the next congress will be Republican.

IT WOULD clarify matters if the demagogues who now seek to bamboozle organized labor into forming an independent political party would quickly round up in the Populistic camp, where they are stampeding as fast as they can.

ANY REPRESENTATIVE from these parts who voted against the Farr free text book bill at Harrisburg last year will need to be prepared to attend a political funeral next November in the unpleasant capacity of a corpse.

THE OSTRICH-LIKE digestive apparatus of the Democratic party has seldom stood it in as good service as during this buzzard-eating crisis of perfidy and dishonor.

THE POLITICAL POT.

In a recent editorial the Pittsburgh Times suggested that in selecting the next president of the Republican State League a man from a Democratic county should be chosen. Inasmuch as upon the basis of Grover's vote there are only twelve Democratic counties left in the state, the Times now explains that its suggestion had reference not only to the surely Democratic counties, but also to the close and doubtful ones, "especially those in which congressmen are to be elected. Leaving out the phenomenal Grover vote and considering those cast at the state election in 1892 and the congressional ones in 1892, would add to the list of twelve Democratic counties the following eighteen: Adams, Bucks, Cambria, Carbon, Chester, Clinton, Fayette, Fulton, Juniata, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montgomery, Northumberland, Schuylkill and Wyoming." The Times thinks that among all these thirty counties "ample first class material can be found, not only for the presidency, but also for all the other offices of the league, if needs be."

The Times adds its opinion that "if the league is ever to be more than a mere plaything its chief officials must be chosen from Republicans of brains, energy, youth and enthusiasm, who are surrounded on every side by the evidence of the necessity of thorough organization to win in their local elections and greatly help the state and congressional tickets. They must also be men whose spare time will not be occupied with some public office, or the arduous pursuit of one, and who will care little for the advancement of the league or the efficiency of its work so long as it serves the purpose of ministering to their own personal ambitions. Many of the individual clubs in the league have done much, good, but on their own account, and not through any assistance derived from that body. Many such clubs have left the league because they perceived that its management seemed to care for was to get their dues between conventions and their votes at them. It is doubtful whether there are now thirty clubs connected in good standing with the league in this thirty-county area, whereas, if the policy indicated by the Times were put in force there would soon be ten times that many."

Our Pittsburgh contemporary disagrees with the suggestion of the Philadelphia Inquirer that Philadelphia should have the league presidency once more. Upon this point it remarks: "The first president who occupied the office was the late Governor, was Mayor E. B. Stuart, of that city, and his immediate successor, who has held the position for several terms, and it is understood declines a re-election. The Congressman John B. Robinson, practically a suburban resident of the same place, while all the time the important offices of secretary and treasurer, have been filled by Philadelphians. If any strong Republican county has any claim upon the presidency of the league it is Allegheny. But neither Philadelphia, nor Lancaster, nor any other strong Republican county needs the State League's aid and therefore its chief executives officers should go to those counties which do."

These are gala days for Tom Reed. He is, from all accounts, the lion of the hour and shares with Senator Gorman the honors of the capital. The Washington Post reports this spicy dialogue overheard by it on the floor of the house, where a group of men were discussing the president and the new tariff bill. Mr. Reed, of Illinois, ventured the opinion that he would veto it. "No, he will sign it," said a knowing Democrat, "and come out in a ringing message that will capture the country." "A ringing message," said Mr. Reed, sarcastically, "how absurd! Who ever heard of a ringing surrender?" "But the president can claim that. This is a better bill than the McKinley law, and that it makes an average reduction of 30 per cent. in duties," persisted the Democrat. "It makes a reduction of exactly \$11,000,000," interposed Mr. Hopkins, of Kentucky, of Illinois, ventured the opinion that he would veto it. 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